

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE HOMESTAYS

YOUNG STUDENTS – SOME PRE-COURSE ADVICE

Towels & laundry

Towels will be provided by the family and basic laundry will be done on request (though not ironing). This is important in helping you decide what to pack in the suitcase. It is best to keep luggage to a minimum: many young students bring too much in their suitcase.

Pocket money

Young students should have a minimum of £60 / €70 per week to cover expenses. These expenses will include entrance to a swimming pool, sports centre, museums, castles, animal parks, cinema, paying for tennis and other activities, any bus or train fares and so on. Even with a student card, castles and animal parks etc average £8/ €9 per visit, with swimming, tennis and the cinema approximately £5 / €6. Young students like social activities, but these can be very limited if they don't bring sufficient pocket money. Sometimes young students spend their pocket money on presents, and they don't have enough left for visits and activities. If they wish to buy presents they should bring extra money.

Telephones

Any bars on mobile phones need removing before arrival in the country if international calls are to be made and received. While parents will naturally wish to phone to check that their child has arrived at the family safely, and to keep in periodic contact during the course, it is suggested that calling too frequently can be counter-productive and result in homesickness. It is best to call and receive calls in the evening, and calls should not be made before 13:00 local time to avoid disruption to lessons. Mobile phones must be switched off during lessons. If a young student expects to make outgoing calls using the family telephone, arrangements must be made to buy a phone card and the family asked if it is convenient prior to each call.

Family life

Young students live as part of a family, which means taking part in everyday activities such as going to the supermarket, walking the dog and possibly sometimes offering to help set/clear the table at mealtimes. The more enthusiasm and willingness to take part that young students display, the more they will gain from the course – and the more they will enjoy it. Such every day activities are part of the course, and activities such as sports, visits and excursions are not organized every day of the week, as host teachers also have to prepare meals and look after the home and family.

Freedom to go out alone

Families act 'in loco parentis' for the duration of the stay. No-one under 16 years of age may go out unaccompanied without written permission from their parent(s), guardian or agent.

Stationery

It is recommended that all young students bring a dictionary and writing materials.